

BOOK REVIEW

Shell Collecting, An Illustrated History, by S. Peter Dance. Published by the University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles 1966, pp. 1-344, 35 plates, and 31 text figures.

This is a most interesting and readable book which contains useful and important historical information. There is much factual data concerned with the older mollusk collections which will be of great value to research students. This composes all of appendix IV, pp. 275-305 which contains a list of many of the most noted shell collections and where they are now to be found or what has happened to them. Many early workers such as the Sowerbys, Reeve, L. Pfeiffer and others borrowed specimens from private collections. These they described and figured in their various monographs. It is most important to know just where the specimens are now located or if they still exist, as they are the type specimens upon which the various species were based.

The historical part of this book is limited mainly to European workers. Only scant attention is given to the early workers in other portions of the world. This is unfortunate since there is much documented material available which could have been used. To give but a single example, no mention is made of Thomas Say who has been considered the "Father of American Conchology" and whose early published research on mollusks set a very high standard of procedure which had a direct influence on the work of other authors which were to follow. Nonetheless Dance has brought together much information and has presented it in a very delightful style.—W. J. CLENCH